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संध्यान IAS

UPSC/BPSC

INDIAN HISTORY : INTRODUCTION

Day-02

संस्कृत



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History

- ✓ History is derived from the Greek word historica.
- ✓ This means inquiry of past events.
- ✓ In hindi History is termed as Itihaas which is made up of iti + h + aas
- ✓ Which means - it has happened / has passed.

□ Why do we study history?

- ↪ From this we get information that when, where and how the human communities developed the oldest cultures in our country.
- ↪ This shows how they started agriculture, which made their life stable. Its study shows that what natural resources were discovered by the inhabitants of ancient India, how they used them and how they gathered the means of their livelihood.
- ↪ It is also known that how they started farming, spinning, weaving, metallurgy etc.; How they cleared the forests, and how they established villages, towns and eventually large states.
- ↪ Only those people are considered civilized who have invented the art of writing. The different scripts which are prevalent in India today, all of them have been developed from ancient scripts. The same is true of our today's languages. Our present languages have their origins in the past; These languages have evolved over a long period of time.
- ↪ The study of the history of ancient India is also interesting because there is a gathering of many human races. Pre-aryan East, Indo-aryan, Greek, Hun, Sak, Turk etc. many groups came and settled permanently in India. Each of these groups has contributed to the formation of Indian culture. All these human groups have mixed with each other so completely that now it is not at all possible to recognize them in their original form.

- ↪ India is the birthplace of many religions. Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism emerged in ancient India, but all these cultures and religions have been mixed and superimposed on each other in such a way that people may speak different languages, follow different religions and have different social status. Follow the customs, there is a lot of uniformity in the lifestyle of the whole country. Despite the wide diversity, there is a deep unity inherent in our country.
- ↪ Efforts have also been made to bind the country in unity in terms of language and culture. Prakrit was the common language of the country in the third century BC. The language of Ashoka's inscriptions spread in every corner of the country is Prakrit. Later Sanskrit got the same status and it became the official language in remote areas of the country. This process became clear during the Gupta period in the fourth century AD. Politically after the Gupta period, though the country was divided into small states, the official documents were written in Sanskrit only.
- ↪ It is a matter of special importance that the ancient epics Ramayana and Mahabharata have been read with the same zeal and reverence in the Tamil country as in the Pandit community of Varanasi and Takshashila. These epics were originally composed in Sanskrit, but were later presented in various local languages. But in whatever form the cultural values and ideas of India were presented, their essence remained the same throughout the country.
- ↪ The study of Indian history is also very interesting from the point of view that a strange type of social system developed here. Caste system originated in North India and this system spread almost all over India. The foreigners who came to India in ancient times were included in one caste or the other. The caste system influenced Christians and Muslims as well. The people whom he converted in this country belonged to one or the

other Hindu caste and even after renouncing Hinduism and adopting the new religion, they maintained some of their old caste customs.

- ❑ The oldest evidence of human activities is obtained from Bori, a site in Maharashtra of the Indian subcontinent dated 1.4 million years ago.
- ❑ Extensive evidence of human activities starts to be found from 5 lakh years ago.
- ❑ To know this vast period, we get two types of evidence –
 1. Archaeological evidence and
 2. Literary evidence.

1. Archaeological Evidence

- ✓ It has introduced us to millions of years of human progress.
- ✓ Ancient inhabitants left behind countless material remains. These include tools and weapons, monuments and relics, artifacts and crafts of ancient peoples, dwelling houses, temples of worship and their living environment.
- ✓ Stone temples in South India and Viharas made of bricks in Eastern India are still seen on the ground. But most of the remains of these buildings are buried under the numerous mounds scattered all over the country, out of which only a few mounds have been excavated through which we have got some information about the people's life in ancient times.
- ✓ The antiquities of the mounds which have been excavated have also been preserved in different proportions.
- ✓ Archeology is the science of obtaining information about the material life of ancient people through the methodical excavation of successive levels of old mounds. Archaeologists have given historians the materials for a complete social and cultural history.
- ✓ Two types of excavation of mounds has been performed for archaeological evidence –
 - **Vertical**

- Chronological positions of material culture can be found through vertical excavations.
- Most of the sites have been excavated vertically due to its low cost.



- **Horizontal**

- Complete and comprehensive evidence is obtained through horizontal excavation.
- Very few mounds have been excavated horizontally due to the high cost. Due to which a complete and comprehensive picture of the material life of many phases of ancient Indian history has not been obtained.



- ✓ The archaeologist digs very carefully with the help of his pick and spade. When he finds something, he does not immediately pick it up. An object that has been buried under the earth for hundreds of years can shatter into pieces with the slightest careless touch and its story can be lost forever. The archaeologist,



without moving the object, uses a knife and paint brush to remove soil from above and around it.

- ✓ It happened once in Iraq that while excavating the tomb of an ancient queen at a place called Ur, a knob of gold was found, and when it was carefully removed a hole was revealed in the ground below. From this it was inferred that there must have been some wooden object under that knob which has been destroyed to dust and only the hole in the middle of it remains. Archaeologists put plaster of paris in this hole. The result was that a complete plaster version of the veena was ready. It was studded with gold nails here and there and the queen's priceless veena was decorated with gold knobs.

- ✓ Due to the dry climate, the antiquities of Western Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and North-West India were more preserved. But in the moist and humid climate of the middle Ganga valley and delta regions, even iron tools get corroded and remains of earthen buildings are difficult to trace. Remains of buildings made of burnt bricks and stones are found in large numbers in moist and alluvial areas.
- ✓ Complete skeletons, tools, utensils and other craft tools of humans are rarely found together at a single place. Usually a jaw or leg bone or some teeth are found. The archaeologist excavates a large quantity of pottery but they are in pieces. In order to present a picture of prehistoric man and his life, the archaeologist carefully studies the pieces of objects found and the layers where he finds them. In this work of reconstruction he takes the help of 'geologists, zoologists and other scientists'.
- ✓ Excavations done in North-West India have revealed such cities which were established around 2500 BC. Similarly, excavations have also given us information about the material culture that developed in the Gangetic basin.
- ✓ This shows that what was the configuration of the settlements in which the people of that time lived? What kind of pottery did they use? What kind of houses did they live in? What grains did they use for food and what kind of tools or weapons did they use?
- ✓ Some people of South India used to put tools, weapons, pottery etc. in the grave along with the dead body of the dead person and big stones were raised in a circle over it. Such monuments are called megaliths. However, not all megaliths fall into this category. Excavations have given us information about the kind of life the people of the Deccan led at the beginning of the Iron Age.

✓ Dating of archaeological materials

Archaeologists use a variety of methods to determine the date of objects they unearth.

- ↪ If coins or inscriptions are found that bear the name of a king, then the date of other materials found with them can be roughly determined.
- ↪ If the site is layered (if the place is such that humans have lived continuously for many centuries, then there are archaeological remains of different times on different layers of the earth), then dating is easy. The objects found in the lower layers of these sites belong to earlier periods than those found in the upper layers. Layered spaces can be read like a book. Archaeologists can often find information dating back thousands of years to the foundation of a settlement.
- ↪ Physics has helped us to know how old an object is. All living things contain a type of radioactive carbon called carbon-14. Very small particles are released from radioactive material at a certain rate. When a living thing dies, it does not take up new carbon-14 from the atmosphere, although it continues to lose it at a certain rate and loses half of its amount after a certain period of time called half-life. The half-life of C^{14} is 5568 years.
- ↪ By measuring the amount of carbon-14 in an object, physicists can tell us roughly how old that object is. This method of determining the date of an object is called 'Carbon-14 dating'.
- ↪ Apart from this, date is also determined by K.Ar method.
- ↪ The history of vegetation is known by the analysis of pollen grains available in the remains of plants. On this basis, the beginning of agriculture in Rajasthan and Kashmir has been certified around 7000 - 6000 BC.
- ↪ By examining the bones of animals, we find out whether those animals were domesticated and what work they were used for.

- ↪ Scientific analysis of the nature and components of metallurgical artifacts is done and as a result it is known that from where these metals were obtained and from these the stages of development of metallurgy are traced.
- ✓ Coins, inscriptions, ancient buildings, pottery, grains, tools, weapons and other materials are found in these excavations.

Numismatics

- ↪ It is the science of collecting and studying coins and other currency units .
- ↪ The old coins were made of copper, silver, gold and lead.
- ↪ Molds of coins made from baked clay have been found in large numbers. Most of these molds belong to the Kushana period, that is, the first three centuries of Christ. These molds almost disappeared in the post-Gupta period.
- ↪ Since the banking system like today did not exist in ancient times. That's why people used to keep their money safely in earthen and bronze utensils, so that they could use this valuable fund in times of trouble.
- ↪ Many such hoards, containing not only Indian coins but also coins minted in foreign mints like the Roman Empire, have been discovered in many parts of the country. These funds are mostly preserved in the museums of Calcutta, Patna, Lucknow, Delhi, Jaipur, Bombay and Madras.
- ↪ Many Indian coins are also found in the museums of Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Since Britain ruled India for a long time, British officials also managed to transfer many Indian coins to their private and public museums. Lists of coins of major dynasties have been prepared and published. Such lists of coins are available in Indian Museum of Calcutta, British Museum of London etc. But even now the lists of many such collections of coins have not been made nor published.



- ↪ Some symbols made on the oldest coins of our country are seen, but later the names and dates of kings and gods and goddesses are also inscribed on them. It becomes clear about the places where these coins are found. That they have been prevalent in that region.
- ↪ It has been possible to reconstruct the history of many dynasties on the basis of coins discovered in this way, especially the history of those Indo-Greek rulers who reached India from northern Afghanistan and ruled here in the second and first centuries BC.
- ↪ Coins also provide important information about economic history. The guilds of merchants and goldsmiths also issued some coins of their own after taking permission from the kings. This gives information about the advancement of craftsmanship and trade.
- ↪ Large amount of transactions were possible due to coins and trade was also encouraged.
- ↪ Maximum coins of post-Mauryan period have been found, especially copper, silver and gold coins.
- ↪ The Gupta rulers issued the largest number of gold coins. All these show that trade and commerce flourished, especially in the post-Mauryan and Gupta periods.
- ↪ Very few coins of the post-Gupta period have been found, so these give information about the decline of trade and commerce in that period.
- ↪ Religious symbols and short articles were also inscribed on the coins, which throw light on the art and economic situation of that time.

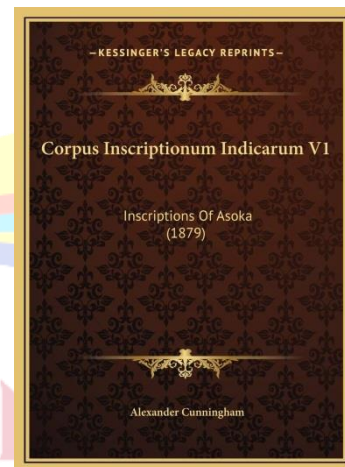
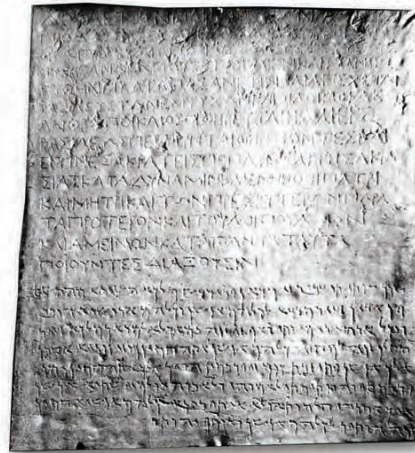


Epigraphy

The study of inscriptions is called epigraphy and the study of the ancient script is called palaeography.

- ↪ On seals, stone pillars, rocks, copper plates, temple walls, bricks and statues inscriptions have been made

- ↳ Generally the oldest writings in the whole country are engraved on the stones. But in the early centuries of Christ, copper plates were being used for this. Even then, a large number of articles were engraved on stones in South India. A large number of inscriptions are also engraved on the walls of temples in South India as permanent monuments.
- ↳ Like coins, inscriptions are also preserved in various museums of the country, but most of the inscriptions are stored in the office of the Chief Epigraphist in Mysore.
- ↳ The oldest texts are in Prakrit language and date back to the 3rd century BCE.
- ↳ Sanskrit language was adopted for the inscriptions in the second century of Christ and it spread widely in the fourth and fifth centuries. Even then Prakrit continued to be used.
- ↳ Inscriptions in regional languages started being composed from the ninth-tenth centuries.
- ↳ Most of the records of Mauryan, post-Mauryan and Gupta period have been collected and published in a book called Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum. But the records of the post-Gupta period have not yet been systematically collected in this way. Lists of script-styles of inscriptions of South India have been published.
- ↳ Yet more than 50,000 inscriptions, mostly writings from South India, are yet to be published.
- ↳ The inscriptions of the Harappan culture, which have not yet been deciphered, were probably written in a pictographic



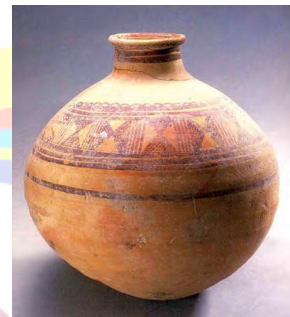
script in which ideas and objects were expressed in the form of pictures.

- ↪ Ashoka's edicts are engraved in Brahmi script, this script was written from left to right. But some articles are also in Kharosthi script, which was written from right to left, but apart from North-West India, Brahmi script was promoted in rest of the states. Greek and Aramaic scripts have also been used for Ashoka's edicts in Afghanistan.
- ↪ Brahmi remained the main script of the country till the end of the Gupta period. With a good knowledge of Brahmi and its different styles, any epigraphist can read the Indian epigraphs up to the 8th century AD. But after this there was a big difference in the regional styles of this script and they were given different names.
- ↪ The oldest writings are found on the seals of the Harappan culture and they date back to about 2500 BC. It has not been possible to read these inscriptions till now.
- ↪ The oldest inscriptions that have been possible to read are Ashoka's inscriptions of the 3rd century BC. Firoz Shah Tughlaq unearthed a pillar edict of Ashoka in Meerut. He brought this Ashokan Pillar to Delhi and asked the pundits of his state to read the inscriptions on it, but no one got success in it. When the British tried to read Ashoka's inscriptions in the last phase of the eighteenth century, they too had to face the same difficulty. For the first time in 1837, James Prinsep, who was then a public servant of the East India Company in Bengal, succeeded in reading these records.
- ↪ There are many types of inscriptions.
 - In some inscriptions, there is information about the social, religious and administrative decrees and decisions issued for the officials and the general public. Ashoka's edicts are of this category.
 - Under the second category come those ritual inscriptions which have been engraved on pillars, stone-plates, temples

or idols by the followers of Buddhist, Jain, Vaishnav, Shaiv etc.

- Apart from these, there are also those praises in which the qualities and successes of the kings and the winners are praised, but there is no mention of their defeats and weaknesses. The Prayag Prashasti of Samudragupta belongs to this category.
- Apart from all this, there are many such charity records, in which specific donations in the form of money, cattle, land etc. are given not only by kings and princes but also by artisans and merchants mainly for religious purposes. The records mainly related to land grants given by kings and feudal lords are of special importance because they provide useful information about the land settlement of ancient India. These inscriptions are mostly engraved on copper plates. In these records, donations of villages, lands and revenue given to monks, priests, temples, viharas, jagirdars and officials are mentioned.

↪ Black Red Ware (BRW), Painted Gray Ware (PGW), Northern Polished Ware (NBPW) etc. have also been found in archaeological evidence.



2. Literary evidence

- ✓ We get a huge store of literary evidence. These books are called manuscripts because they were written by hand. The word 'manuscript' is derived from the Latin word 'menu' which means hand. These manuscripts are often found written on specially prepared Bhojpatra from palm leaves or the bark of a tree called Birch growing in the Himalayan region.



✓ In this, indigenous and foreign literatures come.

Indigenous literature

↳ Many manuscripts are still found in temples and viharas. All kinds of subjects like religious beliefs and practices, life of kings, medicines and science etc. are discussed in these books. Apart from these we also have epics, poems and dramas. Many of these are found written in Sanskrit while others are in Prakrit and Tamil. Prakrit language was used by common people.



- ↳ Knowledge of script to ancient Indians dates back to 2500 B.C. was from the past. But our oldest extant legible manuscripts do not date back to the 4th century AD and have been found in Central Asia
- ↳ The Prakrit language of India was also promoted in Central Asia. The manuscripts there are written on sheep's skin and wooden boards.
- ↳ Although old Sanskrit manuscripts have been found from all over India, but most of them have been found from South India, Kashmir and Nepal.
- ↳ Nowadays most of the manuscripts are preserved in museums and libraries. Most of the ancient texts are related to religious subjects.
- ↳ The religious literature of Hindus includes Vedas, epics (Ramayana and Mahabharata), Puranas etc. This literature throws a lot of light on the social and cultural conditions of ancient India. But it is very difficult to trace their period.

- ↳ Rigveda was composed in approx 1500-1000 BC. But Samaveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda, Brahmin texts, Aranyakas and Upanishads were dated to approx 1000-500 BC. Kshepak is found in almost all Vedic texts, which can generally be seen at the beginning or at the end. Thus, it is not unusual to find interjections even in the middle of the text.
- ↳ Prayers are mainly found in Rigveda and later Vedic texts include prayers in Yajurveda as well as rituals and magic spells and mythological narratives in Atharvaveda. Philosophical thoughts are found in the Upanishads.
- ↳ Both the epics and most of the Puranas were probably compiled around 400 AD.
- Mahabharata
- In both the epics, the Mahabharata was composed first. Probably Circumstances from the 10th century BC to the 4th century AD are depicted in this.
 - Originally it had 8800 verses and was called Jay Samhita i.e. collection related to victory.
 - Later it became 24000 verses and its name became Bharat after the name of ancient Vedic clan Bharat.
 - Finally, the number of shlokas increased to one lakh and it came to be known as Mahabharata or Shatasahastra Samhita.
 - Narration, description and preaching are found in it.
 - The main narrative is of the Kaurava Pandava conflict which may date back to the later Vedic period.
 - The description part can be of later Vedic period and educational/ sermonal section can be of post Mauryan and Gupta period.
- Ramayana
- Originally there were 12000 verses which later became 24000.
 - This epic also contains sermons which were added later.

➤ Sutra literature

- There is abundance of ritualistic literature in the later Vedic period.
- Rules for the sacrifices performed for the kings and all the three castes are found in the Shrauta Sutras. The description of festivals like Rajya Abhishek is in this.
- Rituals related to birth, naming, sacrificial fire, marriage, cremation etc. are found in Grihya Sutra.
- Shrauta Sutra and Grihyasutra - both are of around 600-300 BC.
- Here the Shulva Sutra can also be mentioned, in which different sizes are planned for the construction of Yajurvedis. Geometry and mathematics begin from here.

↶ Religious texts of Buddhists

- Information about historical persons and events is found in the religious texts of Buddhists.
- The oldest Buddhist texts are written in the Pali language, which was spoken in Magadha i.e. southern Bihar.
- These texts were finally compiled in Sri Lanka in the 2nd century BCE, but this religious literature gives information about the conditions of the Buddha's time.
- In these texts we get information not only about the life of the Buddha but also about some of the rulers of Magadha, northern Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh during his time.
- Among the non-religious literature of Buddhists, the most important and interesting are the stories related to the previous births of Gautama Buddha. It was believed that the Buddha passed through more than 550 previous births before finally being born as Gautama, and in many of these births he took the form of an animal. These tales of past births are called Jatakas and each Jatakatha is a type of folk tale. These Jatakas throw valuable light on

the social and economic conditions from fifth to second century BC. Incidentally, these stories also give information about the political events of the time.

↪ Religious texts of Jains

- Information about historical persons and events is found in the religious texts of Jains.
- The Jain texts were composed in Prakrit and were finally compiled in Ballabhi Nagar in Gujarat in the 6th century AD.
- There are many such passages in these texts, on the basis of which we get help in composing the political history of Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh during Mahavir period.
- There are many references to trade and merchants in Jain texts.

↪ Dharma-shastra

- The combined form of Dharmasutras and Smritis is called Dharmashastra.
- Compilation of Dharmasutras 500-200 BC and the major Smritis were codified in the first six centuries of Christ.
- In these, the rights of different varnas and kings and officials are planned.
- In this the rules of possession, sale and succession of property have been given.
- There is a system of punishment for theft, assault, murder, adultery etc.

↪ Arthashastra

- Kautilya's Arthashastra is a very important law book.
- This book is divided into fifteen sections(Prakaran). Among these, the second and third prakaran are more ancient.
- These texts seem to have been composed by different authors.

- This text was given its present form in the beginning of the Christian era, but its oldest parts are indicative of the condition of Maurya-era society and economy.
- It contains important material for the study of ancient Indian monarchy (polity & political system) and economy.
- ↪ Works of Bhasa, Kalidas and Banabhatta are also available in ancient Sanskrit literature. Apart from their literary value, the circumstances of the time of the authors have also been reflected in them. Kalidasa composed poems and dramas, the most famous of which is Abhigyanam Shakuntalam. In this great creative work of Kalidas, there is also a glimpse of the social and cultural life of Gupta period North and Central India.

↪ Sangam Literature

- The earliest Tamil textual material is in the collection of Sangam literature.
- The poets who attended the learning centers patronized by the kings had created this literature in the period of three-four centuries.
- Since such literary gatherings were called Sangams, the entire literature came to be known as Sangam literature.
- These works are said to have been compiled in the first four centuries of Christ, although their final compilation seems to have taken place in the sixth century.
- The Sangam literature is our only major source for the study of the social, economic and political life of the people of Tamil Nadu in the early centuries of Christ.
- The information we get about trade and commerce from this is also confirmed by foreign descriptions and archaeological evidence.

✓ Foreign literary sources

- ↪ Along with native literature, foreign descriptions can also be used.

- ↪ Many Greek, Roman and Chinese travelers came to India as tourists or by adopting Indian religion and left their description of India.
- ↪ There is no information about Alexander's attack in Indian sources; we have to depend entirely on Greek sources to compose the history of his Indian exploits.
- ↪ Greek travelers have mentioned Sandrokottas as a contemporary of Alexander. Alexander had attacked India in 324 BC. This prince Sandrokottas and Chandragupta Maurya was the same person. The date of accession of Chandragupta Maurya is 322 BC have been determined.
- ↪ This identity has become a strong foundation stone for the chronology of ancient India; it is obvious that without this chronology the creation of history is not possible.
- ↪ Indica of Megasthenes, who came as an ambassador in the court of Chandragupta Maurya, is preserved in the form of quotes which have been inspired by many famous writers. Reading these quotations together gives useful information not only about the Mauryan administration but also about the social classes and economic activities of the Maurya period. The work is not free from blind assumptions or exaggerations, but the same applies to other ancient accounts.
- ↪ In the Greek and Roman accounts of the first and second centuries of Christ, mentions of Indian ports are found and information is also available about the items of trade between India and the Roman Empire.
- ↪ Ptolemy's 'Geography' and unknown writer's 'Periplus of the erythrean sea' written in Greek language provide very important material for the study of ancient geography and commerce. The base material found in the first book is dated to 150 AD and the second book is considered to be from 80 to 115. 'AD.

- ↳ Pliny's *The Natural History* (Latin: *Naturalis historia*) is from the first century AD. It is written in Latin language and gives us information about the trade between India and Italy.
- ↳ Prominent among Chinese tourists are Fahien and Hiuen Tsang (Si-Yu-Ki). Both were Buddhists, and had come to India to visit Buddhist shrines and study Buddhism. Fahian came in the beginning of the fifth century of Christ and given information about the social, religious and economic conditions of Gupta period. Hiuen Tsang came India in the second quarter of the seventh century, Hiuen Tsang has given similar information about India during Harsh period.

Historical Wisdom

- ✓ Ancient Indians are accused of lacking historical sense. It is clear that they did not write history as it is written today, nor did they write history books like the Greeks.
- ✓ A kind of history is found in our Puranas which is encyclopedic in substance and provides the dynastic history till the beginning of the Gupta Empire. The details of the events are written in the future tense. However, these events had happened long before the description was written.
- ✓ The authors of these Puranas were not ignorant of the concept of change, and this concept is an essence of history.
- ✓ The Puranas refer to four yugas — Krita, Treta, Dvapara and Kali; each of the subsequent yugas is said to be worse than the previous one and it is also told that at the end of one yuga when a new yuga begins. When it starts, there is degeneration of moral values and social norms.
- ✓ Time-sense, which is an important component of history, is found in the inscriptions. In these, the years of rule of a particular king related to important events are mentioned.

- ✓ Many such Samvats were started in ancient India on the basis of which events have been recorded. Vikram Samvat started in 57 BC, Shaka Samvat in 78 AD and Gupta Samvat in 319 AD.
- ✓ Places and dates are mentioned in inscriptions, causes and consequences of events are given in Puranas and biographies.
- ✓ All these things are indispensable for the reconstruction of history, but there is no systematic information about them.
- ✓ Character writing began in the seventh century with Banabhatta's Harshacharita. Indians have shown a lot of historical discretion in character writing. Harshacharita is a semi-autobiographical work written in ornate style. It became cumbersome for later imitators of this style. This book describes the early activities of Harshavardhana. Although it is full of exaggeration, still it gives good information about Harsha's court and the social and religious life of Harsha. After this many character books were written.
- ✓ Sandhyakar Nandi's Ramcharit describes the struggle between the Pala-ruler Rampal and the Kaivarta peasants; Rampal won in this struggle.
- ✓ Bilhan in his Vikramankadevacharita has described the achievements of his patron Kalyan's Chalukyan king Vikramaditya VI (1076-1127 AD).
- ✓ In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, even some merchants of Gujarat have written Characters.
- ✓ The best example of historical work is Rajatarangini of Kalhana composed in the twelfth century. It presents a systematic character of the kings of Kashmir; in fact, it is the first work which has many features of history with a modern vision.

History and Dates

- ✓ B.C. means 'Before Christ' (BC).

- ✓ A.D. is made up of two Latin words called 'Anno Domini' and it refers to the year of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Sometimes A.D. instead of C.E. and B.C. Instead of B.C.E. is used. The letters C.E. means 'Common Era' and B.C.E. stands for 'Before Common Era'. We use these words because the use of this calendar has become common in most countries of the world. The use of this form of dates in India started about two hundred years ago.
- ✓ Sometimes English B.P. Letters are used which mean 'before present'

Classification of history into the following three parts for the convenience of study on the basis of sources/evidences -

Pre Historic Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Period from 5 lakh years ago to 3000 BC ✓ all sources archaeological ✓ no proof of writing
Proto historic Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3000 BC to 600 BC period ✓ studies based on archaeological evidence ✓ proof of writing is present but not in use as evidence ✓ Cultures of Copper Age and Bronze Age - Harappan culture/civilization are a prime example of this.
Historic Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Beginning of historical period from 600 BC ✓ study based on literary and archaeological evidence

Indian History : Syllabus

History of Ancient India

- Stone Age (5,00,000-3000 BC)
- Proto Historic Cultures (3500-600BC)
- Vedic period (1500-600BC)
- Post-Vedic period (6th century – 4th century BC)
- Mauryan period (4th century – 2nd century BC)
- Post-Mauryan period (2nd century BC- 3rd century AD)
- Sangam period (2nd century BC- 3rd century AD)
- Gupta period (4th century AD- 6th century AD)
- Post-Gupta period (6th century AD- 7th century AD)

✓ History of Medieval India

- Early Medieval Period (800 – 1200 AD)
- Chola Empire
- Delhi Sultanate
- Provincial Dynasties (North India, Deccan and Vijayanagara)
- Religious Movements (15th – 16th century)
- Mughal
- Arrival of European commercial companies in India
- Maratha

✓ History of Modern India

- Fall of Mughal Empire
- East India Company and the Nawabs of Bengal
- Revolt of 1857
- Other mass movements
- Impact of British rule on Indian economy
- Development of education in India
- History of Indian Newspapers
- Social and cultural awakening in the nineteenth century
- Peasant rebellion and movement
- Indian National Movement

- Important functions of the Governor / Governor General / Viceroy of India
- Constitutional Development of India
- After independence the princely states merged with the Union of India.



SANDHAN
GURUKUL